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21 October 1965

BRIEFING NOTES  
FOR THE DCI

THE CONGO

(MAP, CONGO and SOUTHERN AFRICA)

- I. In The Congo, the dismissal of Tshombé on October 13th by President Kasavubu has opened up a period of political turmoil in Leopoldville.
  - A. Kasavubu has teamed up with the ambitious Interior Minister, Victor Nendaka. The two men apparently feel they are strong enough now for a showdown with Tshombé for the presidency, which is the center of power under the constitution.
    1. Presidential elections must be held within six months. The intervening period may be marked by occasional violence all over the Congo as the two factions compete for support.
    2. The white mercenaries now in the northern and eastern Congo might support Tshombé if the dispute is going to be settled outside the constitutional framework. Their intentions, however, are not known at the moment, and many of their contracts will soon expire.

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B. Tshombé's strength lies in his large parliamentary following, in his national stature, and in his control of some provincial assemblies.

1. His party dominated the recent national elections, but it doesn't take much to undo party loyalties in the Congo.

C. Kasavubu and Nendaka now can offer government positions and other inducements. They are hard at work, undermining Tshombé both in the national legislature and in the country as a whole

1. Nendaka, an opportunist with no strong ideological ties, has recently sought help from radical African states, especially Ghana.

2. He has formed an anti-Tshombé alliance in Parliament, and he is assembling a goon squad to intimidate Leopoldville politicians.

D. Evariste Kimba, whom Kasavubu named to form a new government, is a fairly able moderate who has had good relations with American officials.

1. He lacks a political following of his own, however, and is likely to be dependent on Nendaka and Kasavubu.

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2. Kimba was seriously ill with tuberculosis earlier this year, but the disease has apparently been arrested. His health seems fairly good at present.
  3. He put together a cabinet on October 18th which includes politicians from all over the Congo. Most of them are second-rank figures. Nendaka is clearly the most powerful figure.
  4. The cabinet will not be submitted to parliament for approval until Kasavubu comes back late this month from the summit meeting in Accra of the Organization of African Unity.
  5. A few weeks ago, Tshombé had a clear majority in each house. At the moment, however, Kimba probably has at least a 50-50 chance of getting approval for his cabinet.
- E. Tshombé seems likely to stay in Leopoldville for the present and work in Parliament to block his opponents' efforts to form a government.
1. However, if he feels seriously threatened with violence by his opponents, he might retire to his Katanga stronghold and reactivate his secessionist state.

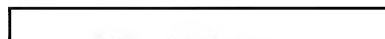
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- II. On the rebel front, the capture of Fizi has cut off the last insurgent area which had access to significant outside aid. Tanzania, which had been giving the rebels substantial aid, now says it has discontinued all such help.
- A. The rebels are scattered and disunited, and are no match for Colonel Hoare's mercenaries.
- B. Rebels still move freely through large areas of the country, however, and the campaign to reestablish central authority throughout the country will be long and arduous.

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